

Hearing Aid Compatible Telephones  
WT Docket No. 01-309  
RM-8658

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Carrier:

Midwest Wireless Communications L.L.C.  
Midwest Wireless Iowa L.L.C.  
Midwest Wireless Wisconsin L.L.C.  
Midwest Wireless Holdings L.L.C.  
Collectively referred to as "Midwest Wireless"

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(1) Digital wireless phones tested: Midwest Wireless operates CDMA network systems and acquires wireless telephone handsets manufactured by Nokia, Motorola, LG, UTStarcom/Audiovox, Samsung and Kyocera (collectively, "Vendors"). Midwest Wireless obtains from Motorola a set of four hearing aid compatible (HAC) handsets rated M3 under standard ANSI C63.19-2005 ("Compliant Phones"). The models tested are V262, V265, V266 and V710. Midwest Wireless also obtains Compliant Phones from Nokia. The models tested are 6155i, 6255i and 3155i.

(2) Laboratory used: Midwest Wireless does not conduct the laboratory testing of handset devices for compliance with the ANSI C63.19 standard. Midwest Wireless relies upon its Vendors to conduct testing and to confirm the compliance of each specific handset device.

(3) Test results for each phone tested: The Compliant Phones deployed by Midwest Wireless have tested positively for M3 compliance

(4) Identification of compliant phone models and ratings according to ANSI C63.19: Of the handsets offered by Midwest Wireless, Motorola models V262, V265, V266 and V710, and Nokia models 6155i, 6255i and 3155i, are rated M3 under standard ANSI C63.19-2005.

(5) Status of product labeling: Midwest Wireless typically relies upon its Vendors to label all products prior to their shipment to Midwest Wireless' retail locations. The Compliant Phones offered by Midwest Wireless contain M3 product labeling and additional information.

(6) Outreach efforts: Now that Compliant Phones have become available they will be publicly identified for consumers and audiologists. Midwest Wireless' Compliant Phones are listed on Midwest Wireless' web site, and the information is available to consumer groups. Midwest Wireless trains its retail salespeople regarding which of the digital wireless phones offered are Compliant Phones. Written materials, pamphlets and other promotional literature are provided at the point of sale, addressing the needs of individuals with hearing disabilities. Midwest Wireless conducts a consumer education program aimed at reaching hearing aid and cochlear implant users. Consumers are given a 30-day trial period within which to try out the digital wireless phone to determine whether they will work properly with their hearing aids. Flexible exchange and return policies apply to consumers seeking to obtain a Compliant Phone. Toward this end, Midwest Wireless has specifically instructed its sales force to make this policy known to consumers, and to assure that the flexible policy is administered to HAC phone users. Additionally, Midwest Wireless conducts outreach activities toward audiologists and hearing aid dispensers who are in a position to inform hearing aid users in advance concerning the immunity of their hearing aids and the degree of likelihood that they will be able to use particular digital wireless phones and services. Current technical and anecdotal information is made available to the public regarding the hearing aid compatibility of Midwest Wireless' Compliant Phones in the form of handouts from Motorola and Nokia that are distributed at retail centers and in all communications with the hearing disabilities community.

(7) Retail availability of compliant phones: The Compliant Phones offered by Midwest Wireless are presently available in Midwest Wireless' retail outlets.

(8) Incorporation of hearing aid compatibility features into newer models of digital wireless phones: Midwest Wireless is in contact with its Vendors with regard to their incorporation of HAC features into future CDMA phones. Midwest Wireless is following its Vendors' efforts to provide additional new handsets that will be hearing aid-compatible. Midwest Wireless plans to add to its assortment of Compliant Phones as new models achieve M3 and M3T ratings.

(9) Activities related to ANSI C63.19 or other standards work intended to promote compliance with the FCC Order: Midwest Wireless is aware that its Vendors are undertaking to comply with the FCC's requirements to provide Compliant Phones. Midwest Wireless is ready and willing to offer new or additional compliant devices to interested customers, and will encourage its Vendors to expedite the availability of advanced handset devices, including handsets rated M3T under standard ANSI C63.19-2005.

(10) Number of compliant and non-compliant phone models offered at this time: Midwest Wireless' core assortment presently includes thirteen models of wireless digital handsets. Seven of these are Compliant Phones.

(11) Differences in handset offerings among regions in service areas, if any: There are occasional differences in handset offerings among regions in Midwest Wireless' service area, according to market conditions. Midwest Wireless' handset offerings are presently consistent in all markets.

(12) Ongoing efforts for interoperability testing with hearing aid devices: Midwest Wireless will rely mainly upon its Vendors to conduct interoperability testing of Compliant Phones, and will provide to consumers information about those efforts upon request.